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BOROUGH OF THETFORD



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
TOGETHER WITH THE  
REPORT OF THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR  
1956.



STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health  
ROBERT N.C. McCURDY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector  
R.C.R. ROBINSON, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

COMMITTEES concerned with matters of PUBLIC HEALTH.

Public Health, Highways and Town Planning Committee.  
Waterworks Committee.  
Parks and Pleasure Grounds Committee.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

|                                                         |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Area in acres .....                                     | 7,096   |
| Population (estimated at mid-year by Registrar General) | 4,650   |
| Number of inhabited houses .....                        | 1,558   |
| Rateable Value .....                                    | £39,709 |
| Product of 1d. Rate .....                               | £171    |

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ended 31st December, 1956.  
To the Thetford Borough Council.

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Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1956.

There were no marked changes in the health of the District during the year. The Birthrate fell to 17.6 per thousand of the population but remains above the national rate of 15.7, and the number of stillbirths fell, for the second consecutive year.

The Deathrate fell to 18.7 per thousand of the population but is still much above the national rate of 11.7. There was a sharp increase in the number of infants dying under the age of one year. Three of them were registered as due to prematurity, one to congenital malformations and the fifth to endocarditis.

Although deaths from other forms of cancer fell, those due to lung cancer increased. There is so much that needs to be said about lung cancer that it will be the subject of a special report in due course.

There were no deaths from tuberculosis, but two fresh cases were notified. There were no widespread epidemics during the year.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. Regulation 20.

During the year restrictions were placed on the sale of milk from one herd owing to its infection with tubercle bacilli. The milk was declared free from infection, and the restrictions were lifted, before the end of the year.

MEDICAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

|             |     |     |     |     | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Live births | ... | ... | ... | ... | 32           | 50             | 82            |
| Stillbirths | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0            | 1              | 1             |

POPULATION AT MID-YEAR, BIRTHS, BIRTHRATE, STILLBIRTHS, STILLBIRTH RATES, DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

|                                                | 1952  | 1953  | 1954  | 1955  | 1956  |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Population ... ..                              | 4,555 | 4,550 | 4,590 | 4,600 | 4,650 |
| Births (total) ... ..                          | 65    | 94    | 81    | 88    | 82    |
| Birthrate per 1,000 of population ... ..       | 14.3  | 20.7  | 17.6  | 19.1  | 17.6  |
| Stillbirths ... ..                             | 1     | 2     | 3     | 2     | 1     |
| Stillbirth rate per 1,000 of population .. ... | 0.22  | 0.44  | 0.65  | 0.43  | 0.22  |
| Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births ... ..  | 15.2  | 20.8  | 35.7  | 22.2  | 12.0  |

DEATHS.

|                      |     |     |     |     | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| All ages             | ... | ... | ... | ... | 53           | 34             | 87            |
| Infants under 1 year | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2            | 3              | 5             |

Causes of death of infants under 1 year.

|                                 |     |     |     |     |   |   |   |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|---|---|
| Prematurity                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Endocarditis                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Congenital malformations .. ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 1 | 1 |

POPULATION AT MID-YEAR, DEATHS, DEATHRATE, INFANT DEATHS AND INFANT MORTALITY RATE, DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

|                                                 | 1952  | 1953  | 1954  | 1955  | 1956  |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Population ... ..                               | 4,555 | 4,550 | 4,590 | 4,600 | 4,650 |
| Deaths ... ..                                   | 67    | 67    | 76    | 101   | 87    |
| Deathrate per 1,000 of population ... ..        | 14.7  | 14.8  | 16.6  | 22.0  | 18.7  |
| Infant Deaths ... ..                            | 3     | 2     | 0     | 2     | 5     |
| Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ... | 46.1  | 21.3  | 0     | 22.7  | 60.9  |

DEATHS FROM CERTAIN SELECTED CAUSES DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

| Cause                                       | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 |
|---------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Tuberculosis ... ..                         | 1    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    |
| Bronchitis and Pneumonia                    | 4    | 3    | 7    | 5    | 5    |
| Other notifiable infectious diseases .. ... | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Motor vehicle and other accidents ...       | 5    | 1    | 3    | 0    | 0    |
| Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion ...      | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Cancer of lung and bronchus                 | 0    | 0    | 1    | 1    | 2    |
| Cancer, all other sites                     | 13   | 13   | 8    | 13   | 5    |

DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGES (compiled from returns submitted by the District Registrar).

| Age Group            | Male. | Female. | Total. |
|----------------------|-------|---------|--------|
| Under 1 year ... ..  | 2     | 3       | 5      |
| 1 and under 5 ... .. | 0     | 1       | 1      |
| 5 " " 10 ... ..      | 0     | 0       | 0      |
| 10 " " 20 ... ..     | 0     | 0       | 0      |
| 20 " " 30 ... ..     | 0     | 0       | 0      |
| 30 " " 40 ... ..     | 0     | 0       | 0      |
| 40 " " 50 ... ..     | 1     | 0       | 1      |
| 50 " " 60 ... ..     | 3     | 1       | 4      |
| 60 " " 70 ... ..     | 10    | 4       | 14     |
| 70 " " 80 ... ..     | 19    | 10      | 29     |
| 80 " " 90 ... ..     | 17    | 14      | 31     |
| 90 and over ... ..   | 1     | 1       | 2      |
| Total                | 53    | 34      | 87     |

CAUSES OF DEATH AT AGES ABOVE 1 YEAR AND BELOW 50.

| Age Group | Sex    | Cause               |
|-----------|--------|---------------------|
| 1 to 5    | Female | Cirrhosis of liver. |
| 40 to 50  | Male   | Parkinsonism.       |

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES (Registrar General's Short List).

| List No. | Cause                                   | Male | Female | Total |
|----------|-----------------------------------------|------|--------|-------|
| 1        | Tuberculosis, respiratory               | 0    | 0      | 0     |
| 2        | Tuberculosis, other                     | 0    | 0      | 0     |
| 3        | Syphilitic disease                      | 0    | 0      | 0     |
| 4        | Diphtheria                              | 0    | 0      | 0     |
| 5        | Whooping Cough                          | 0    | 0      | 0     |
| 6        | Meningococcal infections                | 0    | 0      | 0     |
| 7        | Acute Poliomyelitis                     | 0    | 0      | 0     |
| 8        | Measles                                 | 0    | 0      | 0     |
| 9        | Other infective and parasitic diseases  | 1    | 0      | 1     |
| 10       | Malignant neoplasm, stomach             | 0    | 0      | 0     |
| 11       | Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus      | 2    | 0      | 2     |
| 12       | Malignant neoplasm, breast              | 0    | 2      | 2     |
| 13       | Malignant neoplasm, uterus              | 0    | 0      | 0     |
| 14       | Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 3    | 0      | 3     |
| 15       | Leukaemia, aleukaemia                   | 0    | 0      | 0     |
| 16       | Diabetes                                | 0    | 1      | 1     |
| 17       | Vascular lesions of nervous system      | 9    | 8      | 17    |
| 18       | Coronary disease, angina                | 6    | 4      | 10    |
| 19       | Hypertension with heart disease         | 0    | 1      | 1     |
| 20       | Other heart disease                     | 19   | 8      | 27    |
| 21       | Other circulatory disease               | 2    | 2      | 4     |
| 22       | Influenza                               | 0    | 0      | 0     |
| 23       | Pneumonia                               | 1    | 1      | 2     |
| 24       | Bronchitis                              | 3    | 0      | 3     |
| 25       | Other diseases of respiratory system    | 0    | 0      | 0     |
| 26       | Ulcer of stomach and duodenum           | 0    | 0      | 0     |
| 27       | Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea      | 1    | 0      | 1     |
| 28       | Nephritis and nephrosis                 | 1    | 1      | 2     |
| 29       | Hyperplasia of prostate                 | 2    | 0      | 2     |
| 30       | Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion         | 0    | 0      | 0     |
| 31       | Congenital malformations                | 0    | 1      | 1     |
| 32       | Other defined and ill-defined diseases  | 1    | 4      | 5     |
| 33       | Motor vehicle accidents                 | 0    | 0      | 0     |
| 34       | All other accidents                     | 0    | 0      | 0     |
| 35       | Suicide                                 | 2    | 0      | 2     |
| 36       | Homicide and operations of war          | 0    | 1      | 1     |
|          | All causes                              | 53   | 34     | 87    |

THE FOLLOWING TABLE COMPARES BIRTHRATES, DEATHRATES, ETC., OF THIS DISTRICT WITH THOSE OF ENGLAND AND WALES AND OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF NORFOLK IN 1956.

|                                                    | England and Wales. | Norfolk | District |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------|----------|
| Birthrate ... ..                                   | 15.7               | 15.3    | 17.6     |
| Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births .. ...      | 23.0               | 21.5    | 12.0     |
| Deathrate ... ..                                   | 11.7               | 12.1    | 18.7     |
| Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ... .. | 23.8               | 18.1    | 60.9     |
| Tuberculosis deathrate per 1,000 population ... .. | 0.11               | 0.06    | 0.0      |
| Lung Cancer deathrate per 1,000 population ... ..  | 0.41               | 0.33    | 0.43     |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

| Disease                     | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Tuberculosis, all sites ... | 6    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 2    |
| Cerebro-spinal fever ...    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Scarlet Fever ...           | 1    | 23   | 1    | 0    | 1    |
| Whooping cough ...          | 2    | 5    | 27   | 2    | 4    |
| Erysipelas ...              | 0    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 0    |
| Ophthalmia neonatorum ...   | 0    | 0    | 2    | 1    | 3    |
| Dysentery ...               | 0    | 0    | 4    | 3    | 0    |
| Measles ...                 | 13   | 144  | 11   | 14   | 1    |
| Poliomyelitis ...           | 0    | 1    | 0    | 1    | 0    |
| Pneumonia ...               | 9    | 10   | 4    | 5    | 6    |
| Food poisoning ...          | 1    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    |
| Infectious jaundice ...     | 1    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 1    |
| Puerperal pyrexia ...       | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN 1956, BY AGES.

| Disease                   | Under<br>1 yr. | 1-5 | 5-10 | 10-15 | 15-25 | 25-45 | 45-65 | Over<br>65 | Total |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------|-------|
| Tuberculosis ...          | 0              | 0   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 1     | 1     | 0          | 2     |
| Scarlet fever ...         | 0              | 0   | 1    | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0          | 1     |
| Whooping cough ...        | 2              | 2   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0          | 4     |
| Ophthalmia neonatorum ... | 3              | 0   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0          | 3     |
| Measles ...               | 0              | 1   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0          | 1     |
| Pneumonia ...             | 0              | 0   | 1    | 0     | 0     | 1     | 3     | 1          | 6     |
| Infectious jaundice ...   | 0              | 0   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0     | 1     | 0          | 1     |
| Puerperal pyrexia ...     | 0              | 0   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 1     | 0     | 0          | 1     |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN 1956, BY MONTH OF NOTIFICATION.

| Di sease                 | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apl. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sep. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Total |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Tuberculosis             | 1    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0   | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 2     |
| Scarlet fever            | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0   | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1     |
| Whooping cough           | 1    | 1    | 1    | 0    | 0   | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 4     |
| Ophthalmia<br>neonatorum | 2    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0   | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 3     |
| Measles                  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0   | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1     |
| Pneumonia                | 1    | 5    | 0    | 0    | 0   | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 6     |
| Infectious<br>jaundice   | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1   | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1     |

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS THE NUMBER OF CASES ON THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER  
AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1956, COMPARED WITH 31ST DECEMBER, 1955.

|          | Respiratory |        |       | Non-respiratory |        |       | Grand<br>Total |
|----------|-------------|--------|-------|-----------------|--------|-------|----------------|
|          | Male        | Female | Total | Male            | Female | Total |                |
| 31.12.55 | 7           | 13     | 20    | 3               | 2      | 5     | 25             |
| 31.12.56 | 7           | 14     | 21    | 4               | 2      | 6     | 27             |

I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, and my colleagues on the staff, for their continued support and help during the year.

I have the honour to be,  
Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT N. C. McCURDY,  
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

for the year 1956.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

The public supply is derived from a deep well into chalk within the district boundary. The supply has remained satisfactory both in quality and quantity throughout the year. Approximately 249,920 gallons of water were pumped per day of which 179,920 gallons per day were used for industrial purposes and 70,000 gallons per day for domestic use. Compared with the figures for the year 1955, approximately 16,500 gallons more were pumped per day of which 13,600 gallons were taken for industrial purposes.

The average domestic consumption per head per day amounted to 15 gallons.

Water samples were taken at regular intervals throughout the year and submitted to the Public Analyst for both Chemical and Bacteriological examination. A copy of the Chemical Analysis Report is given as an appendix. In addition samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for Bacteriological examination only and the results showed that the water supply to the town was bacteriologically of a highly satisfactory standard.

Practically all houses within the district have a piped water supply, either direct into the house or to within the curtilage of the house.

There were no extensions to the water mains during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year under review work proceeded on Contract 'A' Reconnection to Sewers, Area B. All work included in this contract to reconnect the sink and bath wastes of 133 properties was completed giving owners a drain within the curtilage of their premises to which a water closet could be connected. Work was also commenced on Contract 'B', Reconnection to the Sewers, Area No.2, for the reconnection of a further 118 properties.

Works were also completed on the conversion and connection to the sewer of 50 Council houses where the sanitary accommodation consisted of pail closets.

In addition to the above, 14 properties having cesspools only, and 88 properties with vault or pail closets provided as sanitary accommodation, were connected and/or converted and connected to the new sewer by their owners. Grants of £20 or half the sum of the cost of a complete connection, whichever is the least; or grants of up to £10 for connection of a water closet only where the Council have themselves reconnected the sink wastes free of charge, have been paid to owners. During the year 58 such grants were authorised for payment by the Council.

Closet Accommodation.

The changes during the year were as follows:-

- (i) Addition of 26 water closets for new houses.
- (ii) Conversion of 88 vaults and pails to water closets.

Conservancy.

The weekly collection of soil, from every premise having a pail closet, has been carried out by Contract. Means of disposal was to farm land and/or to small pits on a site owned by the Council and situated well outside the town area.

Vaults and cesspools were emptied, as required, by contract and as a free service to the occupiers. The number of vaults and cesspools emptied in this way was as follows:-

## Conservancy (Cont'd).

|           |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Cesspools | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 65 |
| Vaults    | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 53 |

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The collection of refuse is carried out on a weekly basis and covers the whole district except for approximately 12 properties which, because of their extreme isolation from the collection routes, cannot be accommodated. The collection is direct from the houses and where possible rear collections are made. The type of vehicle used was a side loading, rear tipping, 7 cubic yard Fordson, manned by a Driver-loader and 3 loaders but in March this vehicle was replaced by a "Karrier side loading, rear tipping vehicle of 12 cubic yards capacity.

Provision is made for the collection of Trade Refuse at a fixed quarterly charge which varies with the number of bins collected from each premise.

The means of disposal of refuse is by semi-controlled tipping at disused pits outside the built-up area of the town. One member of the vehicle crew carries out tip maintenance on  $2\frac{1}{2}$  days in every week. During the year the Mundford Road tip was filled and sealed off with top soil - by intensive and successive treatments the old pit and surrounding areas were cleared of rats.

After the closing of the Mundford Road pit, the pit in Croxton Road was brought into use. Regular inspections of the tip were made and periodic treatments carried out by the rodent operator to destroy rats.

## HOUSING.

### Slum Clearance.

As a result of my survey of houses in 1955 it was considered that 140 houses were unfit for human habitation and should be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Housing Acts over a period of six years.

The following table summarises action taken during the year:-

|                                                                        |     |     |     |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Number of defects remedied by informal action                          | ... | ... | ... | 67 |
| Number of demolition orders made during the year                       | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Number of closing orders made during the year                          | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Undertakings by owners not to re-let dwellings until repairs completed | ... | ... | ... | 6  |
| Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure          |     |     |     | 3  |

A preliminary survey of two areas in the town was carried out and a short report given to Council as to the possibility of treating these two areas as Clearance Areas.

### Housing Act, 1949 - Improvement Grants.

An increasing number of owners took advantage of the facilities provided under the above Act to make applications to the Council for grant aid to improve their houses. The usual improvements covered by the grants were for the installation of baths, sinks, hot and cold water supply, water closets, drainage, proper ventilation and facilities for the storage of food. 19 such applications were made. The grant is conditional upon the house being brought into a good state of repair and to that end detailed inspections of each house were made and full schedules of the works required were prepared and forwarded to the owners concerned. On receipt of these schedules three applications were dropped.

The total amount ranking for grant for the 16 applications amounted to £5,426.

Housing Act, 1949 - Improvement Grants (Cont'd).

In addition to the above the works of Improvement to 50 Council houses to provide bathrooms, water closets and sinks was completed.

Number of new houses erected and occupied was as follows:-

|                   |     |     |     |     |    |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Council Houses    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 |
| Private Dwellings | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8  |

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following table summarises the inspections made during the year by your Public Health Inspector:-

| Description                                                | Inspections                              | Informal notices       | No. abated. |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Drainage of Premises                                       | 259                                      | 41                     | 41          |
| Survey of house drainage for connection to new sewer       | 72                                       | -                      | -           |
| General Nuisances                                          | 105                                      | 58                     | 55          |
| Infectious Diseases                                        | 4                                        | 2 disinfections        |             |
| Rats and Mice                                              | See Section "Damage by Pests Act, 1949". |                        |             |
| Dangerous Structures                                       | 12                                       | 5                      | 5           |
| Verminous and filthy premises                              | 22                                       | 6<br>4 disinfestations | 6           |
| Housing Investigations (re application for Council Houses) | 10                                       | -                      | -           |
| Housing General                                            | 207                                      | See Section "Housing". |             |
| Factories                                                  | 124                                      | 11                     | 11          |
| Bakehouses                                                 | 9                                        | 1                      | 1           |
| Butchers Shops                                             | 60                                       | 9                      | 9           |
| Food Shops and Premises                                    | 132                                      | 29                     | 29          |
| Restaurants and Cafes                                      | 28                                       | 4                      | 4           |
| Fried Fish Shops                                           | 15                                       | 3                      | 3           |
| Ice-Cream Premises                                         | 25                                       | -                      | -           |
| Dairies                                                    | 9                                        | -                      | -           |
| Market Stalls                                              | 84                                       | 6                      | 6           |
| Public Houses                                              | 10                                       | 2                      | 2           |
| Marine Store Dealers                                       | 8                                        | -                      | -           |
| Slaughterhouses                                            | 279                                      | 3                      | 3           |

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The Council employ one man on a part-time basis for the destruction of rats and mice. The Rodent Operator attended a Refresher Course arranged by the Ministry's Infestation Control Division which was intended to keep operators up to date in methods of rodent control and to enliven their interest in the work.

The undermentioned inspections and course of treatments have been carried out in accordance with the provisions of the above Act which states that - "It will be the duty of every Local Authority to take such steps as may be necessary to secure as far as is practicable that their district is kept free from rats and mice."

It will be noted that every dwelling, business premise, farm, allotment - in fact every property within the Borough boundary - received at least one visit during the year.

|                                                                                                                   | Type of Property                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                              |                                                             |                                             |                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------|
|                                                                                                                   | Non-Agricultural                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                              |                                                             |                                             | Agri-cultural. |
|                                                                                                                   | Local Auth-<br>ority<br><br>(1)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Dwelling<br>Houses<br>(Inc.<br>Council<br>Houses)<br><br>(2) | All other<br>(including<br>Business<br>Premises)<br><br>(3) | Total<br>of<br>Cols.<br>1, 2<br>& 3.<br>(4) |                |
| I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District                                                             | 20                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 1489                                                         | 297                                                         | 1806                                        | 11             |
| II. Number of properties inspected as a result of                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                              |                                                             |                                             |                |
| (a) Notification                                                                                                  | -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 17                                                           | 4                                                           | 21                                          | -              |
| (b) Survey under the Act                                                                                          | 20                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 1472                                                         | 293                                                         | 1785                                        | 11             |
| (c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)                                                | -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -                                                            | -                                                           | -                                           | -              |
| IV. Number of properties inspected (in Sect. II) which were found to be infested by:-                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                              |                                                             |                                             |                |
| (a) Rats .. (Major ..                                                                                             | -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -                                                            | -                                                           | -                                           | -              |
| (a) Rats .. (Minor ..                                                                                             | 10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 45                                                           | 11                                                          | 66                                          | 6              |
| (b) Mice .. (Major ..                                                                                             | -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -                                                            | -                                                           | -                                           | -              |
| (b) Mice .. (Minor ..                                                                                             | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 16                                                           | 2                                                           | 19                                          | -              |
| V. Number of infested properties (in Sect. IV) treated by the L.A.                                                | 11                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 57                                                           | 6                                                           | 74                                          | -              |
| VI. Total treatments carried out - including re-treatments                                                        | -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -                                                            | -                                                           | -                                           | -              |
| VII. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                              |                                                             |                                             |                |
| (a) Treatment                                                                                                     | -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -                                                            | 7                                                           | 7                                           | 1              |
| (b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing)                                                                               | -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 1                                                            | 1                                                           | 2                                           | -              |
| VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sect. 4 of the Act. | -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -                                                            | -                                                           | -                                           | -              |
| Maintenance treatment for rats in sewers.                                                                         | All new sewers in the town were test baited. No takes of prebait were observed over a period of 7 days. It has now been recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and food (Infestation Control Division) that no further test baiting is necessary until December, 1957. In the meantime Vertical Block Control methods are recommended if any surface infestation found is suspected of having connection with adjacent sewers. |                                                              |                                                             |                                             |                |

Note: The above figures in each case relate to the number of properties inspected and not to the number of inspections, infestations or treatments at each property.

## FOOD INSPECTION.

### (i) Milk Supply.

Milk Distribution has been satisfactory and the one dairy situated in the district has maintained a good standard of cleanliness. Regular inspections of all vehicles used in the area for the distribution of milk have been made to ensure that cleanliness was observed by personnel to prevent contamination of milk in transit.

There are four registered distributors of milk in the District, two of whom hold Dealers licences to retail "Pasteurised" Milk and the other two hold Supplementary licences to retail "Pasteurised" Milk and "Tuberculin Tested" Milk. All supplies of Pasteurised Milk are obtained from pasteurising plants outside the district.

### (ii) Meat and Other Foods.

A considerable quantity of meat and other foods were examined during the year resulting in the following list of foods being condemned and destroyed as unfit for human consumption:-

|                            |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |           |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| Tomato Puree               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2795 lbs. |
| Tinned Peaches             | ..  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 306 lbs.  |
| Tinned Corned Beef         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 234 lbs.  |
| Tinned Corned Mutton       | ..  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 93 lbs.   |
| Pork Luncheon Meat         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 lbs.   |
| Wet Fish                   | ..  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 lbs.   |
| Various other tinned foods | ..  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 186 tins. |

The method of disposal of condemned food was by incineration carried out mainly at the Corporation tip.

## MEAT.

### Slaughterhouses.

The two private slaughterhouses licenced in 1954 for a period of five years continued to serve three of the six butchers shops in the area. The three butchers who do not kill for themselves obtain their meat supplies from outside the Borough area.

One slaughterhouse has been approved as a Deadweight Certification Centre by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food where pigs only may be presented by producers and certified as eligible for the guarantee payments under the Fatstock Guarantee Scheme. Your Public Health Inspector is the appointed Certifying Officer for which a fee is payable.

317 pigs were weighed and certified as eligible for the guarantee payment under the Scheme.

Although the number of animals killed has not been large, some 279 visits have been paid to the slaughterhouses necessitated by the frequency of slaughtering in small quantities.

The general quality of the animals inspected at the slaughterhouses has been good, mainly because the butchers have been able to select the animals at markets and have not been forced to take the first that comes. The total amount of fresh meat and offal condemned as unsound and unfit for food was 1224 lbs. of which 338 lbs. was tubercular.

Slaughterhouses (Cont'd).

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

|                                                                                                                   | Cattle<br>Excluding<br>Cows. | Cows. | Calves. | Sheep<br>and<br>Lambs | Pigs. | Horses. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|---------|-----------------------|-------|---------|
| Number killed                                                                                                     | 199                          | -     | 4       | 386                   | 597   | -       |
| Number inspected                                                                                                  | 199                          | -     | 4       | 386                   | 597   | -       |
| <u>All diseases<br/>except<br/>Tuberculosis &amp;<br/>Cysticerci</u><br>Whole carcasses<br>condemned              | -                            | -     | -       | 4                     | 1     | -       |
| Carcases of<br>which some part<br>or organ was<br>condemned                                                       | 44                           | -     | -       | 12                    | 15    | -       |
| Percentage of<br>the number<br>inspected<br>affected with<br>disease other<br>than tuberculosis<br>and cysticerci | 27.14%                       | -     | -       | 3.37%                 | 2.68% | -       |
| <u>Tuberculosis only</u><br>Whole carcasses<br>condemned                                                          | -                            | -     | -       | -                     | -     | -       |
| Carcases of<br>which some part<br>or organ was<br>condemned                                                       | 8                            | -     | -       | -                     | 21    | -       |
| Percentage of<br>the number<br>inspected<br>affected with<br>tuberculosis                                         | 4.02%                        | -     | -       | -                     | 3.52% | -       |
| <u>Cysticercosis</u><br>Carcases of<br>which some part<br>or organ was<br>condemned                               | 1                            | -     | -       | -                     | -     | -       |
| Carcases submitted<br>to treatment by<br>refrigeration                                                            | 1                            | -     | -       | -                     | -     | -       |
| Generalised and<br>totally<br>condemned                                                                           | -                            | -     | -       | -                     | -     | -       |

## Food Premises.

New legislation in the form of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, came into operation on the 1st January, 1957. The new Regulations gave added powers to securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in the handling and wrapping of food. Briefly the Regulations dealt with the requirements relating to (1) persons engaged in handling food; (2) Food premises, including facilities for personal cleanliness, washing of food and equipment, provision of sinks and wash hand basins with supplies of hot and cold water, and for the general good construction and repair and cleanliness of the structure of food rooms; and (3) the requirements relating to stalls, and the transport and handling of meat, plus many other provisions connected with the supply of clean food.

Regular inspections were made at all the food businesses in the district when advice was given and the new Regulations discussed. Where necessary letters were sent requesting certain works to bring the premises up to the new standards required.

In addition to the personal approach on the subject of clean food, Abstracts of the requirements of the Regulations, together with posters to bring the attention of food traders and all persons handling food to the importance of preventing contamination of food by flies, dirt, infected hands etc., were sent to all occupiers of food premises.

The general public may also help in the clean food campaign by complaining at food premises concerned of any unhygienic practices they may notice such as blowing into paper bags; licking fingers when picking up wrapping paper; or handling food with dirty hands and nails; wearing dirty protective clothing, smoking in rooms where open food is kept.

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is as follows:-

- |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |    |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| (1) | For the purpose of "the preparation of fish by any process of cooking, for sale for human consumption" ... ..                                                                                                           | 3  |
| (2) | For the purpose of the "sale of Ice-cream" .. ...                                                                                                                                                                       | 12 |
| (3) | For the purpose of "the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale for human consumption including the preparation of meat by any process of cooking ... .. | 6  |

The number of food premises in the area by type of business is as follows:-

| Type of Business          |     |     |     |     |     |     | No. |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Cafes, Restaurants        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15  |
| Greengrocers              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14  |
| Grocers                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20  |
| Confectionery, Cakes etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26  |
| Public Houses             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16  |
| Fried Fish Shops          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3   |
| Wet Fish Shops            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3   |
| Bakehouses                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2   |
| General Stores            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10  |
| Butchers Shops            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6   |
| Sale of Ice-Cream         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12  |
| Dairies                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1   |

Ice-Cream.

There are twelve premises registered in accordance with Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale only of Ice-Cream. In all cases the Ice-Cream is sold as wrapped.

Thirty-two samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for Bacteriological examination and the reports received showed the samples to be graded as under:-

|          |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Grade I  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31 |
| Grade II | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

Part I of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

| Premises                                                                                                     | Number<br>on<br>Register | Number, of  |                    |                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
|                                                                                                              |                          | Inspections | Written<br>Notices | Occupiers<br>prosecuted. |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities                     | 1                        | 6           | -                  | -                        |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority                     | 39                       | 67          | 9                  | -                        |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) | 11                       | 51          | 2                  | -                        |
| Total                                                                                                        | 51                       | 124         | 11                 | -                        |

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

Part I of the Act (Cont'd)

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

| Particulars                                                                 | Number of cases in which defects were found |          |                                  |                      | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                             | Found                                       | Remedied | Referred<br>To H.M.<br>Inspector | By H.M.<br>Inspector |                                                       |
| Want of cleanliness                                                         | 2                                           | 2        | -                                | -                    | -                                                     |
| Overcrowding                                                                | -                                           | -        | -                                | -                    | -                                                     |
| Unreasonable temperature                                                    | -                                           | -        | -                                | -                    | -                                                     |
| Inadequate ventilation                                                      | -                                           | -        | -                                | -                    | -                                                     |
| Ineffective drainage of floors                                              | -                                           | -        | -                                | -                    | -                                                     |
| Sanitary Conveniences                                                       |                                             |          |                                  |                      |                                                       |
| (a) Insufficient                                                            | 1                                           | 1        | -                                | -                    | -                                                     |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective                                                 | 7                                           | 7        | -                                | -                    | -                                                     |
| (c) Not separate for sexes                                                  | -                                           | -        | -                                | -                    | -                                                     |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) | 6                                           | 6        | -                                | -                    | -                                                     |
| Total                                                                       | 16                                          | 16       | -                                | -                    | -                                                     |

Part VIII of the Act.

Outwork.

(Sections 110 and 111).

| Nature of Work                | Section 110                                                   |                                                          |                                                  | Section 111                                         |                 |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
|                               | No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110(1)(c) | No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council. | No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists. | No. of instances of work in un-whole-some premises. | Notices served. | Prosecutions. |
| Wearing apparel (Making etc.) | 1                                                             | -                                                        | -                                                | -                                                   | -               | -             |
| Total                         | 1                                                             | -                                                        | -                                                | -                                                   | -               | -             |

I have the honour to be,  
Your obedient Servant,

R. C. R. ROBINSON,

Public Health Inspector.

APPENDIX.

Lincolne Sutton & Wood,  
Analytical and Consulting Chemists,  
Clarence House,  
6 Clarence Road,  
Norwich.

13th August, 1956.

Cert. No. 433H

Lab. No. 3890/W.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER.

Sample received 1st August, 1956 from Thetford Borough.

Marked Public Supply taken from reservoir at Waterworks.

Appearance when received clear.

Nature of Deposit nil.

Colour nil Odour nil.

Reaction faintly alkaline pH 7.8 Taste satisfactory.

RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

|                                               |      |                                          |                               |
|-----------------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ammoniacal nitrogen:                          | 0.01 | Hardness as $\text{CaCO}_3$ :            |                               |
| Albuminoid nitrogen:                          | 0.02 | Total:                                   | 240                           |
| Nitrate nitrogen:                             | 8    | Carbonate (temporary):                   | 200                           |
| Nitrite nitrogen:                             | nil  | Non-carbonate (permanent):               | 40                            |
| Chlorine as chlorides:                        | 22   | Alkalinity as $\text{CaCO}_3$ :          | 200                           |
| Oxygen absorbed (4 hr. $27^\circ \text{C}$ ): | 0.22 | Free carbon dioxide:                     | 7.5                           |
|                                               |      | Total solids (at $180^\circ \text{C}$ ): | 380                           |
|                                               |      | Iron (total):                            | nil                           |
|                                               |      | Metals in solution:                      | Zinc, Lead and Copper<br>nil. |

OPINION.

There is little difference between this analysis and those of previous occasions. The organic quality is very good and the chemical analysis shows no sign of pollution. The total hardness is approximately  $17^\circ$  Clark, and the reaction of the water is such that it would not be expected to have any serious corrosive action on metals. The sample was free from metallic contamination and its clarity, odour and taste were all satisfactory. In our opinion this water is very suitable for drinking and general purposes.

(Signed) Lincolne Sutton and Wood.





